market fares applicable from these markets, namely, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Air-India has not introduced its own holiday packages from UK and Europe. However, the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has been offered fares for putting together their own holiday packages to India from UK and Europe. The fare given to IATO is at the same level as is available with tour operators/Travel agents in Europe. The fares given to IATO are valid only during specified lean period in the specific route *i.e.* UK/India/UK and Europe/India/Europe, the period specified is 19th August, 2003 to 30th September, 2003 and 15th March, 2004 to 30th June, 2004. The fares cannot be sold separately, *i.e.* without any land arrangements and can only be used as part of regular brochure tour package. Moreover, the ticket on these fares can only be issued in the country of origin of travel and by a licensed tour operator in that country.

(c) Although the Air India holiday packages were welcomed by the tourism trade, their launch unfortunately coincided with the build up of tensions in the Gulf region. Consequently passengers from the Gulf countries were disinclined to undertake leisure travel. As a result, these holiday packages were unable to attract substantial number of tourists due to the uncertain situation.

As regards Indian Airlines, they have not announced any special Air fares for holiday travellers this year but has ongoing concessional airfares and holiday packages which were introduced in the past and are continuing.

Phasing out of Boeing Aircrafts

149. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to sell a Boeing B747-200 aircrafts which has been grounded since January;

(b) if so, whether the other two B747-200s owned by the airline would also be phased out;

(c) if so, what is the total number of aircrafts that are being phased out by Air India;

(d) whether new aircrafts have been obtained in their place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Out of the existing 4 B747-200 aircraft in Air India's fleet, one aircraft is grounded since January, 2003 pending disposal. Global tender for its sale has already been invited. The remaining 3 B747-200 aircraft will also be phased out when replacement capacity is made available.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, to meet short term needs, Air India has taken 9 A310 and one B747-400 aircraft on dry lease.

Fresh legislation in lieu of AAI amendment bill, 2000

150. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had withdrawn the Airports Authority of India Bill, 2000 which was pending in Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a fresh legislation is likely to be brought forward;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the airports likely to be upgraded in the country as part of Government's efforts to create world-class civil aviation infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had withdrawn the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 in the previous Budget session of Parliament to introduce a new comprehensive Bill namely, Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003.